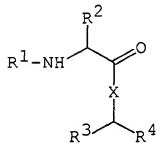
C L A I M S

1. A fatty acid derivative represented by the following formula :



wherein
R^1 is acyl group,
R^2 is acyl(lower)alkyl,
R^3 is hydrogen, aryl(lower)alkyl which may have one or more suitable substituent(s), aryl(higher)-alkyl which may have one or more suitable substituent(s), heterocyclic(lower)alkyl which may have one or more suitable substituent(s), higher alkoxy(lower)alkyl, lower alkyl, or higher alkyl,
R^4 is acyl(lower)alkyl, and

X is -O-, -NH- or $-\overset{R^5}{\underset{|}{N}}-$
[wherein R^5 is lower alkyl,
[cyclo(lower)alkyl](lower)alkyl,
aryl(lower)alkyl, or
heterocyclic(lower)alkyl],

with proviso that X is $-\overset{R^5}{\underset{|}{N}}-$ (wherein R^5 is as defined above), when R^3 is lower alkyl or higher alkyl,
and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of claim 1, wherein

R^1 is protected carboxy;

aryl(lower)alkanoyl which may have 1 to 3 suitable substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of lower alkoxy, aryl, carboxy(lower)alkyl, protected carboxy(lower)alkyl which may be substituted by aryl, protected carboxy(lower)alkenyl, amidated carboxy(lower)alkyl, and aryl(lower)alkyl which may have 1 to 3 suitable substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, higher alkyl, lower alkoxy, aryl and halogen;

heterocyclic(lower)alkanoyl which may have 1 to 3 suitable substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, aryl(lower)alkyl which may have 1 to 3 suitable substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, higher alkyl, lower alkoxy, aryl and halogen, and heterocyclic(lower)alkyl which may have 1 to 3 suitable substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, higher alkyl, lower alkoxy, aryl and halogen;

R^2 is carboxy(lower)alkyl or protected carboxy(lower)alkyl,

R^3 is hydrogen;

aryl(lower)alkyl which may have 1 to 3 suitable substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, higher alkyl, lower alkoxy, aryl and halogen;

aryl(higher)alkyl which may have 1 to 3 suitable substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, higher alkyl, lower alkoxy, aryl and halogen;

heterocyclic(lower)alkyl which may have 1 to 3 suitable substituent(s) selected from the group

consisting of lower alkyl, higher alkyl, lower alkoxy, aryl and halogen;
higher alkoxy(lower)alkyl;
lower alkyl; or
higher alkyl,

R^4 is carbamoyl(lower)alkyl, and

X is -O-, -NH- or $-\overset{R^5}{\underset{|}{N}}-$
[wherein R^5 is lower alkyl, [cyclo(lower)alkyl]-(lower)alkyl, aryl(lower)alkyl, or heterocyclic(lower)alkyl],

with proviso that X is $-\overset{R^5}{\underset{|}{N}}-$ (wherein R^5 is as defined above), when R^3 is lower alkyl or higher alkyl.

3. A compound of claim 2, wherein
R^1 is lower alkoxycarbonyl;
phenyl(lower)alkanoyl or naphthyl(lower)alkanoyl, each of which may have 1 to 3 suitable substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of carboxy(lower)alkyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl(lower)alkyl which may be substituted by phenyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl(lower)alkenyl, carbamoyl(lower)alkyl and phenyl(lower)alkyl; or heterocyclic(lower)alkanoyl which may have 1 to 3 suitable substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of pyridyl(lower)alkyl, naphthyl(lower)alkyl and phenyl(lower)alkyl which may have 1 to 3 suitable substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl and halogen, in which the heterocyclic moiety is unsaturated condensed heterocyclic group containing 1 to 4 nitrogen atom(s),

R^2 is carboxy(lower)alkyl or
esterified carboxy(lower)alkyl,
R^3 is hydrogen;
phenyl(lower)alkyl which may have 1 to 3 suitable substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, higher alkyl and phenyl;
naphthyl(lower)alkyl which may be substituted by lower alkyl;
phenyl(higher)alkyl;
heterocyclic(lower)alkyl, in which the heterocyclic moiety is unsaturated condensed heterocyclic group containing 1 to 2 oxygen atom(s);
higher alkoxy(lower)alkyl;
lower alkyl; or
higher alkyl,
R^4 is carbamoyl(lower)alkyl, and

X is -O-, -NH- or $-\overset{R^5}{\underset{|}{N}}-$

[wherein R^5 is lower alkyl, phenyl(lower)alkyl, or pyridyl(lower)alkyl],

with proviso that X is $-\overset{R^5}{\underset{|}{N}}-$ (wherein R^5 is as defined above), when R^3 is lower alkyl or higher alkyl.

4. A compound of claim 3, wherein
R^1 is lower alkoxycarbonyl;
phenyl(lower)alkanoyl or naphthyl(lower)alkanoyl, each of which may have carboxy(lower)alkyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl(lower)alkyl which may be substituted by phenyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl(lower)alkenyl, carbamoyl(lower)alkyl or phenyl(lower)alkyl;
heterocyclic(lower)alkanoyl which may have
pyridyl(lower)alkyl, naphthyl(lower)alkyl or

phenyl(lower)alkyl which may have 1 to 3 suitable substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl and halogen, in which the heterocyclic moiety is indolyl, quinolyl or isoquinolyl,

R^2 is carboxy(lower)alkyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl(lower)alkyl, or phenyl(lower)alkoxycarbonyl(lower)alkyl,

R^3 is hydrogen; phenyl(lower)alkyl which may have lower alkyl, (C_7-C_{16})alkyl or phenyl; naphthyl(lower)alkyl which may have lower alkyl; phenyl(C_7-C_{16})alkyl; benzofuranyl(lower)alkyl; (C_7-C_{16})alkoxy(lower)alkyl; lower alkyl; or (C_7-C_{16})alkyl,

R^4 is carbamoyl(lower)alkyl, and

X is -O-, -NH- or $-\overset{R^5}{\underset{|}{N}}-$

[wherein R^5 is lower alkyl, phenyl(lower)alkyl, or pyridyl(lower)alkyl],

with proviso that X is $-\overset{R^5}{\underset{|}{N}}-$ (wherein R^5 is as defined above), when R^3 is lower alkyl or (C_7-C_{16})alkyl.

5. A compound of claim 4, wherein

R^1 is (C_1-C_4)alkoxycarbonyl; phenyl(C_1-C_4)alkanoyl or naphthyl(C_1-C_4)alkanoyl, each of which may have carboxy(C_1-C_4)alkyl, (C_1-C_4)alkoxycarbonyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl which may be substituted by phenyl, (C_1-C_4)alkoxycarbonyl-

(C_2-C_4)alkenyl, carbamoyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl or phenyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl;

heterocyclic(C_1-C_4)alkanoyl which may have pyridyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl, naphthyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl or phenyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl which may have 1 to 3 suitable substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_4)alkyl and halogen, in which the heterocyclic moiety is indolyl, quinolyl or isoquinolyl,

R^2 is carboxy(C_1-C_4)alkyl, methoxycarbonyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl, or benzyloxycarbonyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl,

R^3 is hydrogen;

phenyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl which may have (C_1-C_4)alkyl, (C_7-C_{16})alkyl or phenyl;

naphthyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl which may have (C_1-C_4)alkyl;

phenyl(C_7-C_{16})alkyl;

benzofuranyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl;

(C_7-C_{16})alkoxy(C_1-C_4)alkyl;

(C_3-C_6)alkyl; or

(C_7-C_{16})alkyl,

R^4 is carbamoyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl, and

X is -O-, -NH- or $-\overset{R^5}{\underset{|}{N}}-$

[wherein R^5 is (C_1-C_5)alkyl, phenyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl, or pyridyl(C_1-C_4)alkyl],

with proviso that X is $-\overset{R^5}{\underset{|}{N}}-$ (wherein R^5 is as defined above), when R^3 is (C_3-C_6)alkyl or (C_7-C_{16})alkyl.

6. A compound of claim 4, wherein

R^1 is indolyl(lower)alkanoyl which may have a suitable substituent selected from the group consisting of pyridyl(lower)alkyl, naphthyl(lower)alkyl,

phenyl(lower)alkyl, lower alkylphenyl(lower)alkyl, and halophenyl(lower)alkyl,

R^2 is carboxy(lower)alkyl,

R^3 is lower alkyl or (C_7-C_{16})alkyl,

R^4 is carbamoyl(lower)alkyl, and

X is $-\overset{R^5}{\underset{|}{N}}-$

[wherein R^5 is lower alkyl].

7. A compound of claim 6, which is selected from the group consisting of

(1) (3S)-3-[N-(n-Propyl)-{(2S)-5-carboxy-2-[(1-(2-chlorobenzyl)indol-3-ylcarbonyl)amino]pentanoyl}-amino]nonanamide,

(2) (3S)-3-[N-(n-Propyl)-{(2S)-2-(1-(2-chlorobenzyl)indol-3-ylcarbonyl)amino-5-carboxypentanoyl}amino]heptanamide,

(3) (3S)-3-[N-(n-Propyl)-{(2S)-2-(1-benzylindol-3-ylcarbonyl)amino-5-carboxypentanoyl}amino]-dodecanamide,

(4) (3S)-3-[N-(n-Propyl)-{(2S)-2-(1-(2-chlorobenzyl)indol-3-ylcarbonyl)amino-5-carboxypentanoyl}amino]dodecanamide,

(5) (3S)-3-[N-Ethyl-{(2S)-2-(1-(2-chlorobenzyl)indol-3-ylcarbonyl)amino-5-carboxypentanoyl}amino]-nonanamide,

(6) (3S)-3-[N-Ethyl-{(2S)-2-(1-benzylindol-3-ylcarbonyl)amino-5-carboxypentanoyl}amino]-nonanamide,

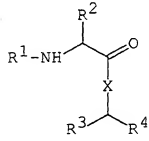
(7) (3S)-3-[N-(n-Butyl)-{(2S)-2-(1-(1-naphthylmethyl)-indol-3-ylcarbonyl)amino-5-carboxypentanoyl}amino]-heptanamide, and

(8) (3S)-3-[N-(n-Propyl)-{(2S)-2-(1-benzylindol-3-ylcarbonyl)amino-5-carboxypentanoyl}amino]-

nonanamide,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. A process for preparing a compound of the formula :



wherein

R^1 is acyl group,

R^2 is acyl(lower)alkyl,

R^3 is hydrogen, aryl(lower)alkyl which may have one or more suitable substituent(s), aryl(higher)-alkyl which may have one or more suitable substituent(s), heterocyclic(lower)alkyl which may have one or more suitable substituent(s), higher alkoxy(lower)alkyl, lower alkyl, or higher alkyl,

R^4 is acyl(lower)alkyl, and

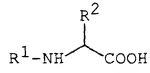
X is -O-, -NH- or $-\overset{R^5}{\underset{|}{N}}-$

[wherein R^5 is lower alkyl,
[cyclo(lower)alkyl](lower)alkyl,
aryl(lower)alkyl, or
heterocyclic(lower)alkyl],

with proviso that X is $-\overset{R^5}{\underset{|}{N}}-$ (wherein R^5 is as defined above), when R^3 is lower alkyl or higher alkyl,

or a salt thereof, which comprises

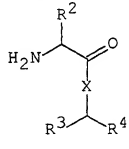
1) reacting the compound of the formula :



wherein R^1 and R^2 are each as defined above, or a reactive derivative at the carboxy group or a salt thereof, with the compound of the formula :

wherein R^3, R^4 and X are each as defined above, or a salt thereof,

2) reacting the compound of the formula :



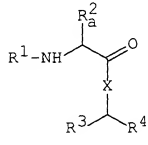
wherein R^2, R^3, R^4 and X are each as defined above, or a reactive derivative at the amino group

or a salt thereof, with the compound of the formula :

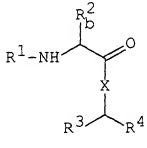
$$R^1 - OH$$

wherein R^1 is as defined above,
or a reactive derivative or a salt thereof,

3) subjecting the compound of the formula :



wherein R^1, R^3, R^4 and X are each as defined above,
and
R^2_a is protected carboxy(lower)alkyl,
or a salt thereof, to elimination reaction of carboxy protective group, to give the compound of the formula :



wherein R^1, R^3, R^4 and X are each as defined above,

and

R^2_b is carboxy(lower)alkyl,

or a salt thereof.

9. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, a fatty acid derivative of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

10. Use of a fatty acid derivative of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the manufacture of a medicament.

11. A fatty acid derivative of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use as a medicament.

12. A method for the prevention and/or the treatment of pancreatitis, hepatitis, chronic renal failure, shock, arthritis, respiratory disease, heart disease, allergic disease, thrombosis, arteriosclerosis, pain, autoimmune disease, dermal disease, inflammatory bowel disease, ophthalmic disease, nasal diseases, gout, trauma induced inflammation or liver diseases, which comprises administering a fatty acid derivative of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to a human being or an animal.